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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the
Committee on Environmental Policy

Decision approving the renewal of the mandates and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews

Background

1. At its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014), the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) agreed on:

(a) The renewed mandate of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment until the twenty-first session of CEP (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015) and its revised terms of reference;

(b) The renewed mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators until the twenty-first session of CEP and its revised terms of reference;

(c) The renewed mandate of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews until the regular session of CEP in 2018 and its terms of reference;

and requested the secretariat to submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

Draft decision

2. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the renewal of the mandates of (a) the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; (b) the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators; and (c) the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, and their respective terms of reference as contained in annexes I, II and III.

GE.15-01909 (E)

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Annex I

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) renews the mandate of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for one year until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

2. The Working Group should help strengthen environmental observation capacity, including monitoring networks, and establish and maintain effective environmental information systems in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the target countries), to ensure the factual basis for environmental policymaking, and for informing the public about the state of and changes to the environment. In particular, the Working Group should:

(a) Support the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), in line with the SEIS objectives to underpin regular reporting and assessments in accordance with international monitoring and assessment requirements and obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including improvements to:

(i) The necessary data collection, where needed, through modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks;

(ii) Information systems;

(iii) Institutional cooperation and coordination mechanisms;

(b) Review the progress in developing SEIS based on the targets and performance indicators (ECE/CEP/2014/8) adopted by CEP at its twentieth session;

(c) Help enhance capacities to produce good quality, concise but informative state-of-the-environment reports and other assessments, where relevant, based on the effective use of environmental indicators and their analysis and the application of modelling;

(d) Promote the use and implementation of recommendations and guidelines, as well as other methodologies on environmental monitoring and assessment, as endorsed internationally, in particular by Environment for Europe (EfE) ministerial conferences.

3. The Working Group should further contribute to an appraisal of monitoring and assessment requirements within the framework of the EfE process as well as other relevant processes.

4. The Working Group should be open to all ECE member States. Its members should be the officials in ECE countries dealing with environmental monitoring and assessment. It will also involve in its activities experts from the national statistical agencies and other relevant services.

5. In delivering on its mandate, the Working Group should cooperate with international forums and networks, such as, in particular: the European Environment Agency; the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Statistics Division; the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health; relevant multilateral environmental agreements, especially those of the ECE; the Global Earth Observation System of Systems; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and relevant major groups.

6. In its operation, the Working Group will be guided by the relevant procedures established by ECE.

7. The ECE secretariat will provide secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including interpretation and translation, in accordance with ECE rules and practices.

8. Donors will be invited to provide support for the Working Group's activities.

9. CEP will review the present terms of reference at its twenty-first session in October 2015.

Annex II

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

I. Mandate and reporting

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) renews the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

2. The objective in the work of the Joint Task Force is to assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment reports in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the target countries) in further improving their environmental statistics and the production and sharing of the agreed indicators. This work should support the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the pan-European region as the basis for regular reporting and assessments under the international monitoring and assessment requirements, including the obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

3. The Joint Task Force will continue to report on its accomplishments to its parent bodies, CEP and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

4. CEP will review the present terms of reference at its twenty-first session in October 2015.

II. Planned activities and outputs

5. To achieve its objectives, the Joint Task Force will undertake the following activities:

(a) Review production and online sharing of indicators in common agreed formats to gradually cover all the environmental indicators in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Indicator Guidelines);[1]

(b) Discuss challenges in data collection, processing and validation as well as online sharing of the indicators and provide and adapt the relevant guidance material;

(c) Continue to strengthen, in cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and other relevant institutions, the capacities of the countries concerned in the production and sharing of environmental data, including statistical data, and indicators by providing technical assistance and training, in a manner coherent with the principles of SEIS and regular environmental reporting and assessments;

(d) Consider additional environmental indicators for inclusion in the Indicator Guidelines, as required to meet policy demands;

[1] The revised Guidelines are available in the form of an online database from http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

(e) Maintain a network of environmental experts in statistical offices and Government agencies dealing with environmental assessments to further broaden the exchange of experiences and approaches.

6. The Task Force will prepare the following outputs:

(a) Data and indicators are produced and shared in common agreed formats on the websites of national agencies, with links to the national websites made available on the Joint Task Force website;

(b) Methodologies, papers and presentations with recommendations for data collection, processing and validation are developed and shared online;

(c) The capacities of the target countries to produce and share environmental statistical data and indicators are improved;

(d) Additional indicators are included in the Indicator Guidelines, as necessary;

(e) Networks of environmental experts and statisticians are in place to ensure effective exchange of experiences and approaches.

III. Timetable

7. The mandate of the Task Force is renewed for one year until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

IV. Method of work

8. The Joint Task Force is expected, subject to the availability of donor support, to have regular face-to-face meetings (two per annum) as well as workshops focusing on specific issues during its mandate. The Joint Task Force will also work via e-mail and other electronic means. It will closely cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to support the establishment of SEIS for regular reporting and assessments applying the SEIS principles. Donors will be invited to provide voluntary contributions to support the work of the Joint Task Force.

V. Membership

9. The Joint Task Force will be open to all ECE countries. Other interested countries are also welcome to participate. EEA, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health and the secretariats of relevant MEAs and other institutions will be invited to participate.

VI. Secretariat support

10. The Environment Division and the Statistical Division will jointly service the Task Force. This will include:

(a) Servicing the Joint Task Force meetings (with interpretation and translation), including the preparation of meeting agendas and reports;

(b) Preparing background documents and compilation papers for the Joint Task Force at its request;

(c) Mobilizing financial support for members of the Joint Task Force to facilitate their participation in the meetings and workshops;

(d) Helping the target countries, under projects with EEA and other interested institutions, to improve their capabilities for producing indicators.

Annex III

Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews

1. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews (Expert Group on EPRs) is mandated until the end of 2018 to support the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme in accordance with the terms of reference described below.

Membership

2. The core membership of the Expert Group on EPRs for 2015–2018 should consist of 10 to 14 participants, with due consideration given to a balanced geographical representation from the countries in the region. It is also suggested that, when new members are chosen, due regard should be given to experts from countries that have recently been reviewed, as well as to those which have undergone or will soon undergo reviews.

3. The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) delegates may participate in the meetings of the Expert Group as observers and act as advisers to review the report and its recommendations.

4. In addition, experts nominated by the CEP delegates, and agreed by the members of the Expert Group in consultation with the secretariat, may participate in the meetings of the Expert Group on any country under review.

Terms of reference

5. The mandate of the core members of the Expert Group is renewed for a period of four years for the purposes of:

(a) Carrying out the expert review process, prior to the peer review to be undertaken by CEP;

(b) Providing guidance to the ECE secretariat and CEP on all substantive and organizational matters arising in the implementation of the ECE EPR Programme;

(c) Assisting the ECE secretariat in coordinating the ECE EPR Programme with processes that have a bearing on it under way in other international institutions, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the European Environment Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

6. The guidance of the Expert Group to the ECE secretariat and CEP will include:

(a) Identification of opportunities and requirements for improving the conduct of EPRs;

(b) Assessment of environmental trends relevant to the EPR process in non-OECD member countries, including through the organization of joint meetings, seminars and workshops at the regional and subregional levels, where these are demand-driven.

7. The core members of the Expert Group are nominated by the ECE member States. The secretariat will invite international institutions pursuing related work to participate in the work of the Expert Group.

8. While taking decisions on an EPR report under review and its recommendations, the Expert Group shall take into consideration the inputs by the reviewing countries and CEP delegates who participate in the meeting.

9. The Expert Group shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair.

10. The Expert Group will report annually on its activities to CEP, and may raise any issue with CEP that it deems necessary for the implementation of its mandate.

Timetable

11. The mandate of the Expert Group will cover a four-year period, from the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2018.

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Matters relating to the
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Decision approving the extension of the Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

Background

1. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-fifth meeting on 4 December 2013, approved the Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2013–2014.

2. At its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19-21 November 2014), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the extension of the 2013–2014 Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification until the end of 2015 and requested the Expert Group on Resource Classification to prepare a work plan for 2016–2017. The extension was granted for the following reasons: (i) the Work Plan remains valid for 2015; (ii) the Expert Group on Resource Classification is continuing to deliver according to the Work Plan 2013–2014; and (iii) the extension of the Work Plan will allow the Expert Group to align the timing of its Work Plan with those of the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Draft decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the extension of the 2013–2014 Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification, as contained in the annex, until the end of 2015.

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1501910

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Annex

Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2013–2014

Excerpt from ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/2:

"89. After discussion and review of the programme of work for 2012–13 as recommended at the third session and included in the report of that meeting (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2012/2) and in the light of the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 ECE Reform, the Expert Group agreed on its programme of work for 2013–2014 as provided below and recommended that it be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement.

A. Specifications for UNFC-2009

Description: Specifications (or basic rules of application) are needed for UNFC-2009 in order to ensure an appropriate level of consistency and coherence when it is applied. They provide additional instructions on how the definitions contained in UNFC-2009 must be applied in specific circumstances including, where appropriate, commodity-specific rules. At the first session of the Expert Group, the Specifications Task Force Phase Two (established by and reporting to the Bureau) was tasked to consider all issues raised by stakeholders that are not currently addressed fully in the CRIRSCO Template and/or PRMS and as contained in the final version of the report of the original Specifications Task Force (ECE/ENERGY/2010/8). Following agreement on the final text of the specifications at the fourth session, the Expert Group recommended them for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequently by the ECE Executive Committee. With the finalization of the specifications, UNFC-2009 is now ready for the first rounds of full scale application, in order to fulfill ECOSOC Decision 2004/233.

Work to be undertaken: The generic specifications and the commodity-specific specifications appropriate to solid minerals and petroleum (based on bridging documents to the CRIRSCO Template (for solid minerals) and PRMS (for petroleum)) as agreed at the fourth session are to be published together with UNFC-2009 in all official languages of the United Nations to facilitate further implementation of ECOSOC Decision 2004/233. Prior to the formation of the Technical Advisory Group, the Specifications Task Force is to provide technical advice to UNFC-2009 stakeholders regarding the application of UNFC-2009 and related matters according to its revised Terms of Reference (EGRC-4/2013/INF.4, dated 10 April 2013). The specifications as agreed at the fourth session will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement in the second quarter of 2013.

Deliverables:

(a) Publication of UNFC-2009 together with the specifications as a single publication in all United Nations languages;

(b) A summary report to be presented to the fifth session of the Expert Group of any advice provided by the Specifications Task Force under its revised Terms of Reference, containing among other things:

(i) recommendations for recognizing bridging documents to other classifications;
(ii) review options for broadening the application of UNFC-2009;
(iii) an account of other substantial achievements since the last report; and
(iv) electronic dissemination of the publication containing UNFC-2009 and the specifications where appropriate.

Timeline:

(a) Publication of UNFC-2009 with specifications as soon as practicable following approval to do so by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee and preferably by August 2013;

(b) 2013 to ongoing.

B. Technical Advisory Group

Description: At the first session of the Expert Group it was agreed that the Bureau should progress establishment of a Technical Advisory Group, including development of a mandate, methodology of operation and rules of procedure, list of deliverables, membership list and potential sources of extrabudgetary funding, for consideration at the second session of the Expert Group. A recommendation from the fourth session of the Expert Group, for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement, is made to establish a Technical Advisory Group. This Group is needed to provide assistance and advice on how to interpret, apply and/or map to UNFC-2009 as and when requested, as well as to compile and analyze the results of such initiatives.

Work to be undertaken: Once consent is obtained from the Committee on Sustainable Energy for the Bureau to establish the Technical Advisory Group, it will perform in accordance with the terms of reference outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/5. The Bureau will review the terms of reference on an ongoing basis and should any modifications be proposed they would be submitted to the Expert Group for consideration.

Deliverables: Technical Advisory Group established by end-2013 and operational during 2013 or first-half of 2014.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing.

C. Testing and review of UNFC-2009

Description: Widespread testing of UNFC-2009 is essential to ensure the classification meets the needs of its stakeholders and also to ensure it remains current. The Committee on Sustainable Energy has also directed the Expert Group to reinforce its efforts to encourage testing and application of UNFC-2009 as widely as possible and that feedback on this continue to be monitored and reviewed at least every two years.

Work to be undertaken: Encourage members of the Expert Group to test UNFC-2009 in their own work environments. Encourage stakeholders to carry out cross-mapping with other systems. Ideally, this would include government to government mapping, mapping to commercial systems, and testing of the bridging documents to the CRIRSCO Template and PRMS. Results should be compiled and analyzed by the Specifications Task Force (until the Technical Advisory Group is established) and reported to the Bureau and to the Expert Group.

Case studies shall be sought to demonstrate that UNFC-2009 meets the needs of the four principal applications for which it has been designed (international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management: and financial analyses and capital allocation).

Results of testing and case studies on UNFC-2009 should be prepared for review by the Expert Group and then compiled in an electronic publication and posted to the ECE website.

The Bureau is to review UNFC-2009 to determine if any modifications or additions are required to meet the needs of end-users and to facilitate its broader application as envisaged in the Outcome of the Review of the ECE Reform of 2005.

As required under the programme and performance monitoring programme for the current biennium (2012–2013), a report on the Status of the Implementation of UNFC-2009 should be prepared for presentation to the Committee on Sustainable at its twenty-second session in November 2013.

Deliverables: Case studies demonstrating how a UNFC-2009 inventory is built, and how it may be used for: international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management: and financial analyses and capital allocation.

A Status Report on the Implementation of UNFC-2009 for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-second session in November 2013. A draft of this will be circulated to the Expert Group prior to submission.

Proposals for modifications to UNFC-2009 to be presented to the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing. The work will be undertaken when opportunities avail themselves respecting that there are currently no funds available to commission it. Results will be reported when available. A summary report of the activities will be made at each meeting of the Expert Group.

D. Education and Outreach

Description: The Expert Group established a Communications Sub-Committee at its first session, with a mandate to develop and implement a communications and education strategy to ensure that opportunities to promote UNFC-2009 globally and to deliver a consistent message are maximized, including through conferences, workshops, articles and technical papers. The Sub-Committee was also tasked to assist with identification of experts in countries and organizations not already represented in the Expert Group. Following finalization of the specifications for application of UNFC-2009, the Communications Sub-Committee will cooperate with the Technical Advisory Group in relation to the increased education and outreach that will be needed to facilitate the roll-out of UNFC-2009. The Communications Sub-Committee will propose a revised mandate to reflect (i) the range of UNFC end-users, including the renewable energy resources sector; (ii) the need to coordinate its work with the Technical Advisory Group once established; and (iii) the need to encompass academic institutions. In the interim the Communications Sub-Committee will coordinate its work with the Specifications Task Force as required.

Work to be undertaken: The Communications Sub-Committee is to continue its work to promote the Expert Group and UNFC-2009 as per its mandate, with a review of activities to be prepared for the fifth session of the Expert Group. Subject to resources (human and financial), attention is to be given to organizing national and regional workshops globally.

Deliverables: A report of the activities of the Communications Sub-Committee to be delivered to the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing (to be reviewed annually).

E. Use of UNFC in classifying injection projects

Description: It was recommended at the first session of the Expert Group that a Task Force on UNFC and Recipient Reservoirs be established by and report to the Bureau to continue to research and develop views on this potential use of UNFC-2009 and identify additional key stakeholders who could provide critical analysis and feedback on the practicality of applying UNFC-2009 for these types of projects. The Task Force is carrying out research on the potential use of UNFC-2009 for classifying injection projects (e.g., storage of carbon dioxide, natural gas storage or other waste disposal projects).

Work to be undertaken: Continue work to investigate how, for example, oil and gas companies classify and evaluate the maturity of their gas injection projects today, and propose a draft bridging document. An update on any findings is to be provided to the fifth session of the Expert Group and relevant documentation prepared for that session.

Deliverables: An assessment of how stakeholders classify and evaluate the maturity of their gas injection projects today. A bridging document for application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects, in particular to the storage of carbon dioxide.

Timeline: 2013–2014 (subject to review at the fifth session of the Expert Group).

F. Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources

Description: Classification of nuclear fuel resources is currently undertaken according to the NEA/IAEA "Red Book" classification system. The NEA/IAEA "Red Book" will be aligned with UNFC-2009. This is the response to the extensive efforts of IAEA to build technical capacity on UNFC-2009 globally and the ensuing requests from a number of governments. Work on this proposed activity has been underway since 2010 and considerable achievements have been made.

Work to be undertaken: A Task Force, to be led by IAEA, will be established to undertake the necessary work for UNFC-2009 to be applied to nuclear fuel resources.

Deliverables: Establishment of a Task Force led by IAEA to facilitate application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources. A bridging document relating to the NEA/IAEA "Red Book" classification of nuclear fuel resources to UNFC-2009 and vice versa will be presented to the Expert Group for consideration and recommendation at its fifth session. Appropriate guidelines will be incorporated to ensure consistent application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuels thereby allowing use of the higher granularity of UNFC-2009 and its harmonization advantages.

Timeline: 2013–2014 (subject to review at the fifth session of the Expert Group).

G. Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy projects

Description: Renewable energy resources increasingly provide sustainable and much needed fuel and power globally. As the renewable industry becomes a fully commercialized sector, it is important to quantify in a common and transparent way the amount of resources contributed both at a project level and to the regional and global energy systems. This must be undertaken in a way that allows a comparison with other energy resources using common frameworks. If UNFC-2009 could also be applied to renewable energy resources, this would for the first time allow development of a classification system for renewable and non-renewable projects and improve the view of energy sustainability. A general classification system for renewable energy does not currently exist worldwide.

Work to be undertaken: Produce a written assessment of how UNFC-2009 can be applied to renewable energy resources with an accompanying timeline for each of the deliverables. The Bureau will establish a Task Force on Renewable Resources with a number of renewable technology specific sub-task forces.

Deliverables: Establishment of a Task Force on Renewable Resources and sub-task forces as appropriate. A written outline of how the application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources will be accomplished with a timeline for each deliverable will be circulated to the Expert Group and outputs made available on the ECE website prior to submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Timeline: By 1 November 2013 for submission to the twenty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

H. Financial reporting

Description: UNFC has been designed to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of all applications pertaining to financial reporting standards, particularly those promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The Expert Group cooperates closely with the IASB, which has undertaken an extractive activities research project to analyse the unique financial reporting issues applicable to extractive activities and to identify a basis on which a financial reporting model might be developed to address these issues. If the IASB decides in the future to add an International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) for extractive activities to its active agenda, the objective would be to develop an IFRS on accounting for extractive activities that would supersede IFRS 6: Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources.

Work to be undertaken: The Bureau of the Expert Group is to monitor relevant developments in financial reporting globally that might have an impact on reserves and resources and prepare any necessary documentation for the fifth session.

Deliverables: Status report on any changes or developments in the financial reporting sector globally with implications or potential implications for UNFC-2009.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing (with annual review).

I. Collaboration and cooperation with other bodies

Description: UNFC-2009 has been designed to meet essential needs in international energy and minerals policy formulation, Government resources management, industry business processes management and capital allocation. This has required close collaboration and cooperation with stakeholders from these four areas of application.

Work to be undertaken: Continue to collaborate and cooperate with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible and identify new partners, particularly within non-UNECE member countries.

Deliverables: A list of stakeholders who either participate actively in meetings of the Expert Group or who have expressed an interest in doing so is to be prepared for the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing.

J. Electronic communication

Description: The dissemination of Expert Group deliverables to relevant stakeholders and end users will continue to be made using electronic communication facilities whenever these are fit for purpose. The Expert Group will likewise use electronic communication internally in the Group and throughout its network. To this end, the network of experts will be maintained using a central inventory of contacts. These activities will reflect the position of ECE as the United Nations-wide centre of excellence on resource classification.

Work to be undertaken: Electronic dissemination of the deliverables of the Expert Group to the extent possible and practicable. Development of a centralized database of UNFC-2009 end-user contacts.

Deliverables: An enhanced and centralized database of UNFC-2009 end-user contacts. Electronic dissemination of the deliverables of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing."

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Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

Background

1. At its first session (Geneva, 17-18 November 2014), the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014-2015 and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee.

2. At its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19-21 November 2014), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015, and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for approval by the Executive Committee.

Draft decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the work plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

I. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) establishes a Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts), which is mandated to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities that, in line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4All) initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts; and strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will concentrate on: (a) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency; and (b) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete Activities

4. On the basis of a proposal by the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts, the Group of Experts proposes to undertake the following activities:

A. Identification of the state of development of energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of energy efficiency in countries in the region to establish a baseline for further activities. The work will be conducted with other relevant international and national actors and be based on existing data and benchmarking indicators in order to identify success stories that can be scaled up.

Work to be undertaken:

- Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of energy efficiency in the ECE region, including an overview of existing energy efficiency indicators and their relevance, availability, timeliness and quality of data, and existing energy efficiency monitoring systems;
- Present the results of the review to the Committee of Sustainable Energy.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Literature review at regional level: October 2014;
- Presentation of the initial results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: November 2014.

B. Exchange of know-how and best practices in ECE on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States and relevant international actors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the region. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Energy Charter Secretariat, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the United Nations Foundation, the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Investor Confidence Project Europe, ISGAN – International Smart Grids Action Network, other United Nations Regional Commissions (UN RCs), and other relevant organizations.

Work to be undertaken:

- Identify and contact key stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and work with them (through an interactive electronic exchange) to identify economic and efficient measures and technologies that are capable of accelerating energy efficiency improvements in key sectors in the region;
- Produce a menu of economic and efficient measures and technologies, including high-impact policy measures that could help the countries of the region (at the national and local levels) to significantly improve energy efficiency. ECE member States that have implemented measures will be indicated, allowing both tracking and reporting of progress and providing platforms for experience sharing. The menu would provide ECE member States with a range of options, including smart grids, that they could consider for inclusion in their national action plans;
- Identify work on energy efficiency standards and labelling that is ongoing in other organizations (such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), etc.) and develop suggestions on establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency in cooperation with international standardization organizations;
- Based on the above, support the exchange of experiences and assist ECE member States, if requested, with the development of national action plans that contribute to a significant improvement in the uptake of energy efficiency. This work will be carried out in cooperation with other actors such as UNDP, UNFCCC, UNEP, C2E2, and Energy Community Treaty.

Deliverables:

- A first draft menu of accelerators based on available information from existing actors (UNFCCC, IEA, UNEP, and C2E2) and countries implementing them will be circulated to stakeholders and posted on the ECE website in March 2015. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the draft menu in an interactive electronic exchange of views. The menu will be updated regularly in the same manner;

- Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency;
- Help in developing national action plans if requested and where possible on the basis of existing templates and models.

Timeline:

- Present a draft version of the menu of accelerators in March 2015;
- Improve/complete/maintain/update the menu from March 2015 onwards;
- Suggestions for further work on the development and establishment of ECE standards for energy efficiency: May 2015;
- Assistance in developing national energy efficiency actions plans: ongoing.

C. Share experience on smart grids and other advanced transmission and distribution technologies

Description: This activity aims at increasing awareness on the advantages of smart grids and their potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. It will be carried out with the International Energy Agency (IEA) "Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN)[1].

Work to be undertaken:

Provide an overview of smart grids initiatives and activities in the region leading to enhanced understanding of the state of development of smart grids, and their impact.

Deliverables:

- Overview of activities and players active in smart grids.

[1] http://www.iea-isgan.org

United Nations ECE/EX/2015/L.5

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015

Background

1. At its first session (Geneva, 18-19 November 2014), the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014-2015 and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee.

2. At its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19-21 November 2014), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015, and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for approval by the Executive Committee.

Draft decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the work plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

GE.15-01913 (E)
1501913

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) establishes the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy which is mandated to carry out concrete result-oriented activities that, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative of the Secretary-General, help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will focus on a) regulatory and policy dialogue and b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete activities

4. The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy propose to undertake the following activities:

A. Identification of the state of development of renewable energy sources in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of renewable energy sources to establish a baseline for further activities. This work will be conducted together with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of renewable energy in the ECE region; and

(b) Within the context of the review and if needed, conduct a survey of ECE member States on the national situation, plans, framework conditions, and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

(a) Literature review at regional level: Preliminary report based on existing data by November 2014; Substantive report on the Status of Renewable Energy in the Region with key partners by November 2015 subject to resource availability;

(b) Presentation of the results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: 2014-2015 Sessions.

B. Identification and support to those communities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region that have no access to energy

Description: Upon request, the Group of Experts will assist member States to identify those communities that have no access to energy. The Group will further suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. The private sector could be asked to help achieve that objective.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Map those communities in the ECE region that have no access to energy;

(b) Initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on supplying electricity and heat from renewable energy sources to those communities. Identify and contact stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from the private sector and academia;

(c) Draw up an Action plan "Access to Energy for All" in the ECE Region in collaboration with the other groups of experts and the Committee and start implementation with the help of the private sector, academia, civil society, other international actors, so as to accelerate energy access for those communities ; and

(d) Identify, by means of an interactive electronic exchange with these stakeholders, a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them which may support the use and installation of renewable energy technologies in areas of the ECE region where there is no access to energy.

Deliverables:

(a) A map of communities without access to energy;

(b) Menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them;

(c) An Action plan for access to energy for all in the ECE Region.

Timeline:

(a) Preliminary overview of communities with no access to energy: November 2014; on-going mapping of communities from November 2015;

(b) Menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them which may support the use and installation of renewable energy in areas without access to energy: First draft based on existing work of other international actors: February 2015;

(c) Further development and implementation of the Action plan: on-going.

C. Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy.

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between member States, relevant international organizations and other stakeholders on how to significantly increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This work will be

undertaken collaboratively with other organisations including IRENA, IEA, and the World Bank Group.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Identify and contact main stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and/to work with them (through an interactive electronic exchange) to/and develop a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them, which may contribute to significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy;

(b) Produce a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them, also indicating the countries already implementing them so as to facilitate exchange of experiences between all experts in the region; and

(c) Based on the above, assist countries at their request with the development of national renewable energy action plans that contribute to a significant improvement in the uptake of renewable energy and an energy transition in the ECE Member States. This work will be carried out in cooperation with other actors such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(d) Identify work on renewable energy and efficiency standards and linking labelling that is on-going in other organisations (such as the Energy Saving Certificate (ESC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), etc.) and develop suggestions on establishing ECE standards for renewable energy, in cooperation with international standardization organizations.

Deliverables:

(a) A menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them on how to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy and countries implementing them;

(b) Support the development of national renewable energy action plans upon request;

(c) Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for renewable energies in the long-term.

Timeline:

(a) Present first version of the menu with key action areas at the first formal meeting of the Group of Experts: March 2015;

(b) Improve/complete the menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them: from February 2015 onwards;

(c) On that basis provide support for renewable energy action plans upon request: from February 2015 onwards;

(d) Preliminary suggestions for further work on best practices and on possible ways to develop standards: November 2015.

D. Further activities

5. Member States may further decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy within agreed mandates, including in cooperation with IRENA, IEA, United Nations Industrial Development Organization , the World Bank Group, the International Sustainable Energy Organization and other relevant actors, conduct an analysis of the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technologies in the region, relative to energy production from fossil fuels;

6. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to and implemented in cooperation and coordination with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-Food and Agricultural Organization, Forestry and Timber subprogramme, the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme and the Statistics subprogramme.

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Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to trade and economic cooperation

Draft Decision

Decision on the establishment and terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, with reference to paragraphs 17, 18 and 31(g) of Commission Decision A(65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE and paragraph 24 of the Chairman's conclusions of the Executive Committee meeting on 6 February 2014, agrees to establish an ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, to replace the former Trade Committee. The terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards are contained in the annex.

GE.15-01915 (E)
1501915

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Annex

Terms of Reference

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (hereinafter referred to as the "Steering Committee") is an intergovernmental body that oversees and guides the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

2. Draft the programme of work on trade capacity and standards and review and endorse the work plans of WP.6 and WP.7, and recommend these to the Executive Committee for approval.

3. Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extra-budgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations. Capacity building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided in accordance with point 18(a) of Commission Decision A(65).

4. Liaise and coordinate its work with other UNECE committees and relevant subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and coordinate its work with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations and stakeholders and international standards-setting organizations in order to achieve synergies and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.

5. Meet once a year for a maximum of 1½ days in a session that is open to all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders and that shall be held back-to-back with the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and, as feasible, with the annual session of either WP.6 or WP.7.

6. Elect its own Bureau, which includes the Chairs of WP.6 and WP.7 as *ex officio* members.

7. Report to the Executive Committee.

8. Operate under the ECE Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies, as agreed in Commission Decision A(65).

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Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the trade and economic cooperation

Draft Decision

Decision on matters relating to United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, referring to paragraphs 17 and 18 of Commission Decision A(65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE, agrees that, at the end of 2015, it may dec ide, after evaluation, whether it is desirable for United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) to report to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

GE.15-01916 (E)
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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to trade and economic cooperation

Draft Decision

Decision on renaming the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration and on its revised terms of reference

At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, with reference to paragraphs 13, 14 and 31 (g) of Commission Decision A (65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE and paragraph 24 of the Chairman's conclusions of the Executive Committee meeting of 6 February 2014, agrees to:

a) rename the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration as the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships; and

b) revise the terms of reference of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration and use the revised terms of reference, as contained in the annex, for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

GE.15-01920 (E)
1501920

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Annex

Terms of Reference

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships

Mission statement

1. The Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships helps all countries in the region to promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness in and of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. In its work, the Committee responds to the needs of Governments and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, researchers and civil society. It contributes to the economic cooperation and integration, as well as sustainable development of the ECE region.

Activities

2. The Committee, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations, is entrusted with the implementation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme of ECE. The work of the Committee is demand-driven, focuses inter alia on specific topics, and aims at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by:

(a) Promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation;

(b) Facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises, and improving corporate responsibility;

(c) Facilitating effective regulatory policies and corporate governance, including those in the financial sector; and

(d) Promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment.

3. To achieve its objectives, the Committee:

(a) Serves as a platform for policy dialogue, the exchange of experience and good practices;

(b) Develops guidelines and policy recommendations for Governments on the basis of the above; and

(c) Provides a basis for demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities in the mandated areas.

4. The Committee operates in accordance with a multi-year Programme of Work. It reviews this programme regularly to ensure the coherence of its activities with the overall objectives of ECE, and develops synergies both within the programme and with the relevant activities of other ECE bodies, in particular the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

5. The Committee coordinates its work with and builds on the results of the work carried out by other relevant organizations and institutions operating in this field, including United Nations agencies.

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6 February 2015

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the Working Group on Ageing

Decision approving the programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing under the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2014–2015

Background

1. At its sixth session (Geneva, 25-26 November 2013), the Working Group on Ageing adopted a draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2014–2015 as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2013/6.

Draft Decision

2. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth session on 10 February 2015, approves the programme of work for 2014–2015 as revised and contained in the annex.

GE.15-01921 (E)
1501921

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Annex

Draft programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing for 2014-2015 under the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme

Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work for 2014–2015 of the population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme. The Working Group on Ageing (WGA) is invited to consider the programme of work of the population component and subsequently adopt it at its sixth meeting. It will then be submitted to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. Should a need arise, the WGA will have the opportunity to adjust the population component's programme of work during the course of the biennium and such adjustments will be reflected in a separate document.

2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of proposed outputs/activities for 2014–2015. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

3. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as that used for the biennial evaluation of the subprogramme performance. The correlation between the ECE Strategic Framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation for 2014–2015 is shown in Annex II to the present document.

4. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2014–2015 and are complemented by additional items to reflect the more recent developments and needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities have been clearly indicated as "additional".

5. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

6. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data against which performance will be measured, are presented in document ECE/WG.1/2013/7 in order to facilitate the task of the WGA to assess whether all outputs which are necessary to achieve the expected result have been included in the plan.

7. Finally, Annex I to the present document lists the ECE overall legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme.

I. Objective and strategy

8. The objective of the Population subprogramme is to improve the necessary knowledge base on population issues and strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies, enhancing social cohesion and developing capacities at the national and local levels.

9. The population component of the subprogramme works to ensure the implementation of the ECE Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing with a view to meeting the challenges arising from demographic change and releasing the unused potential of some population groups, in particular, older persons. It provides a platform for intergovernmental policy debate on matters relating to ageing and facilitates communication between a wider network of experts and non-governmental organizations. It also provides opportunities for exchange of experiences and best practices. It improves evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing by coordinating data collection and policy-oriented research on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations.

10. The population component of the subprogramme also provides support to the development of national capacities for policy formulation in response to demographic change by providing policy advice on national action plans on ageing as well as capacity-building (training, workshops, seminars to national specialists and government officials).

II. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2014–2015 biennium

Cluster 1
Population Ageing

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
Addressing policy challenges and maximizing opportunities of population ageing	Enhanced policies and actions for adjusting societies to population ageing

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

1.1 Sixth and seventh meetings of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing (6 half-day meetings)

1.2 Seventh and eighth annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing (8 half-day meetings)

1.3 Reports of the annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing (2)

1.4 Progress reports on activities in the field of population ageing, including reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing (2)

1.5 Reports on specific topics related to population (3)

(b) Publications and other information material

1.6 Policy briefs on ageing (2)

1.7 Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing (1)

1.8 Booklet of the Working Group on Ageing (1)

1.9 Press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications related to population activities (1)

1.10 Maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to population activities (1)

(c) Technical cooperation

1.11 Fact-finding and advisory missions to develop national capacities in the design and implementation of ageing related policies and programmes (1)

1.12 Workshop on ageing (1)

Cluster 2
Generations and Gender

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
Analysis of intergenerational and gender relationships	Improved national and international knowledge base for policymaking on issues related to intergenerational and gender relations

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

2.1 Report on specific topic related to population (Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)) (1)

(b) Publications and other information material

2.2 Press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications related to GGP activities (1)

2.3 Maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to GGP (1)

2.4 Internet-accessible GGP research bibliography (1, additional)

(c) Technical cooperation

2.5 Field project: provision of support to national teams conducting Generations and Gender Surveys in several countries (1)

Appendix

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Res No.	*Title*
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
64/217	Women in development
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

Res No.	*Title*
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2012/30	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

3. Others

Res No.	*Title*
A (63)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65) (decision)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

B. Legislative mandates specific to the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Res No.	*Title*
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
66/127	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
67/139	Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons

67/143	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
68/134	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

Res No.	*Title*
2004/2	Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
2009/1	The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
2010/14	Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/2010/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V, and E/2010/SR.45)
2011/28	Modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/2011/26)
2012/232 (decision)	Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
2012/234 (decision)	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session
2013/29	Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

3. Others

Res No.	*Title*
Commission for Social Development: Resolution 47/3 (2009)	First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6	Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
ECE/AC.30/2007/6	Léon Ministerial Declaration "A Society for all Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"
ECE/AC.30/2012/3	Ministerial Declaration "Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing", Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Vienna, 19 and 20 September 2012

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-sixth meeting
Geneva, 31 March 2015
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the Committee on Environmental Policy

Decision approving the renewal of the mandates and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews

Background

1. At its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014), the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) agreed on:

(a) the renewed mandate of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment until the twenty-first session of CEP (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015) and its revised terms of reference;

(b) the renewed mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators until the twenty-first session of CEP and its revised terms of reference;

(c) the renewed mandate of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews until the regular session of CEP in 2018 and its terms of reference;

and requested the secretariat to submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

Draft decision

2. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-sixth meeting on 31 March 2015, approves the renewal of the mandates of: (a) the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; (b) the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators; and (c) the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, and their respective terms of reference as contained in annexes I, II and III.

GE.15-06727 (E)
1506727

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Annex I

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) renews the mandate of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for one year until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

2. The Working Group should help strengthen environmental observation capacity, including monitoring networks, and establish and maintain effective environmental information systems in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the target countries), to ensure the factual basis for environmental policymaking, and for informing the public about the state of and changes to the environment. In particular, the Working Group should:

(a) Support the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), in line with the SEIS objectives to underpin regular reporting and assessments in accordance with international monitoring and assessment requirements and obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including improvements to:

(i) The necessary data collection, where needed, through modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks;

(ii) Information systems;

(iii) Institutional cooperation and coordination mechanisms;

(b) Review the progress in developing SEIS based on the targets and performance indicators (ECE/CEP/2014/8) adopted by CEP at its twentieth session;

(c) Help enhance capacities to produce good quality, concise but informative state-of-the-environment reports and other assessments, where relevant, based on the effective use of environmental indicators and their analysis and the application of modelling;

(d) Promote the use and implementation of recommendations and guidelines, as well as other methodologies on environmental monitoring and assessment, as endorsed internationally, in particular by Environment for Europe (EfE) ministerial conferences.

3. The Working Group should further contribute to an appraisal of monitoring and assessment requirements within the framework of the EfE process as well as other relevant processes.

4. The Working Group should be open to all ECE member States. Its members should be the officials in ECE countries dealing with environmental monitoring and assessment. It will also involve in its activities experts from the national statistical agencies and other relevant services.

5. In delivering on its mandate, the Working Group should cooperate with international forums and networks, such as, in particular: the European Environment Agency; the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Statistics Division; the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health; relevant multilateral environmental agreements, especially those of the ECE; the Global Earth Observation System of Systems; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and relevant major groups.

6. In its operation, the Working Group will be guided by the relevant procedures established by ECE.

7. The ECE secretariat will provide secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including interpretation and translation, in accordance with ECE rules and practices.

8. Donors will be invited to provide support for the Working Group's activities.

9. CEP will review the present terms of reference at its twenty-first session in October 2015.

Annex II

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

I. Mandate and reporting

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) renews the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

2. The objective in the work of the Joint Task Force is to assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment reports in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the target countries) in further improving their environmental statistics and the production and sharing of the agreed indicators. This work should support the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the pan-European region as the basis for regular reporting and assessments under the international monitoring and assessment requirements, including the obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

3. The Joint Task Force will continue to report on its accomplishments to its parent bodies, CEP and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

4. CEP will review the present terms of reference at its twenty-first session in October 2015.

II. Planned activities and outputs

5. To achieve its objectives, the Joint Task Force will undertake the following activities:

(a) Review production and online sharing of indicators in common agreed formats to gradually cover all the environmental indicators in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Indicator Guidelines);[1]

(b) Discuss challenges in data collection, processing and validation as well as online sharing of the indicators and provide and adapt the relevant guidance material;

(c) Continue to strengthen, in cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and other relevant institutions, the capacities of the countries concerned in the production and sharing of environmental data, including statistical data, and indicators by providing technical assistance and training, in a manner coherent with the principles of SEIS and regular environmental reporting and assessments;

(d) Consider additional environmental indicators for inclusion in the Indicator Guidelines, as required to meet policy demands;

[1] The revised Guidelines are available in the form of an online database from http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

(e) Maintain a network of environmental experts in statistical offices and Government agencies dealing with environmental assessments to further broaden the exchange of experiences and approaches.

6. The Task Force will prepare the following outputs:

(a) Data and indicators are produced and shared in common agreed formats on the websites of national agencies, with links to the national websites made available on the Joint Task Force website;

(b) Methodologies, papers and presentations with recommendations for data collection, processing and validation are developed and shared online;

(c) The capacities of the target countries to produce and share environmental statistical data and indicators are improved;

(d) Additional indicators are included in the Indicator Guidelines, as necessary;

(e) Networks of environmental experts and statisticians are in place to ensure effective exchange of experiences and approaches.

III. Timetable

7. The mandate of the Task Force is renewed for one year until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015.

IV. Method of work

8. The Joint Task Force is expected, subject to the availability of donor support, to have regular face-to-face meetings (two per annum) as well as workshops focusing on specific issues during its mandate. The Joint Task Force will also work via e-mail and other electronic means. It will closely cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to support the establishment of SEIS for regular reporting and assessments applying the SEIS principles. Donors will be invited to provide voluntary contributions to support the work of the Joint Task Force.

V. Membership

9. The Joint Task Force will be open to all ECE countries. Other interested countries are also welcome to participate. EEA, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health and the secretariats of relevant MEAs and other institutions will be invited to participate.

VI. Secretariat support

10. The Environment Division and the Statistical Division will jointly service the Task Force. This will include:

(a) Servicing the Joint Task Force meetings (with interpretation and translation), including the preparation of meeting agendas and reports;

(b) Preparing background documents and compilation papers for the Joint Task Force at its request;

(c) Mobilizing financial support for members of the Joint Task Force to facilitate their participation in the meetings and workshops;

(d) Helping the target countries, under projects with EEA and other interested institutions, to improve their capabilities for producing indicators.

Annex III

Mandate and Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews

1. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews (Expert Group on EPRs) is mandated until the end of 2018 to support the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme in accordance with the terms of reference described below.

Membership

2. The core membership of the Expert Group on EPRs for 2015–2018 should consist of 10 to 14 participants, with due consideration given to a balanced geographical representation from the countries in the region. It is also suggested that, when new members are chosen, due regard should be given to experts from countries that have recently been reviewed, as well as to those which have undergone or will soon undergo reviews.

3. The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) delegates may participate in the meetings of the Expert Group as observers and act as advisers to review the report and its recommendations.

4. In addition, experts nominated by the CEP delegates, and agreed by the members of the Expert Group in consultation with the secretariat, may participate in the meetings of the Expert Group on any country under review.

Terms of reference

5. The mandate of the core members of the Expert Group is renewed for a period of four years for the purposes of:

(a) Carrying out the expert review process, prior to the peer review to be undertaken by CEP;

(b) Providing guidance to the ECE secretariat and CEP on all substantive and organizational matters arising in the implementation of the ECE EPR Programme;

(c) Assisting the ECE secretariat in coordinating the ECE EPR Programme with processes that have a bearing on it under way in other international institutions, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the European Environment Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

6. The guidance of the Expert Group to the ECE secretariat and CEP will include:

(a) Identification of opportunities and requirements for improving the conduct of EPRs;

(b) Assessment of environmental trends relevant to the EPR process in non-OECD member countries, including through the organization of joint meetings, seminars and workshops at the regional and subregional levels, where these are demand-driven.

7. The core members of the Expert Group are nominated by the ECE member States. The secretariat will invite international institutions pursuing related work to participate in the work of the Expert Group.

8. While taking decisions on an EPR report under review and its recommendations, the Expert Group shall take into consideration the inputs by the reviewing countries and CEP delegates who participate in the meeting.

9. The Expert Group shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair.

10. The Expert Group will report annually on its activities to CEP, and may raise any issue with CEP that it deems necessary for the implementation of its mandate.

Timetable

11. The mandate of the Expert Group will cover a four-year period, from the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2018.

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Seventy-sixth meeting
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Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the
Inland Transport Committee

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks

Background

1. The Inland Transport Committee, at its seventy-seventh session (24-26 February 2015), decided to recommend to the Executive Committee to approve: a) the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks for two more years; b) its revised terms of reference as contained in the Annex; and c) the change of the name of the Group to "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes".

Draft Decision

2. The Executive Committee, at is seventy-sixth meeting on 31 March 2015, approves:

a) the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks from 2015 until 2017;

b) its revised terms of reference as contained in the Annex; and

c) the change of the name of the Group to "Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes".

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1506730

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

I. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks published in December 2013, the Group of Experts, renamed as 'Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes' will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Identify and establish if possible inventories of transport networks in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region which are vulnerable to climate change impacts, if possible in a geographic information system (GIS) environment;

(b) Use/develop models, methodologies, tools and good practices to address potential extreme hazards (e.g. high temperatures and floods) to selected inland transport infrastructure in the ECE region under different scenarios of climate change;

(c) Identification and analysis of case studies focusing on the potential economic, social, and environmental consequences of the climate change impacts and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the adaptation options.

2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on the ECE previous work in this field, in particular the output of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks and its final report – a publication (ECE/TRANS/238) and recommendations published in 2013 and adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 20).

II. Methods of work

3. The Group of Experts will function in accordance with the ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2015, at least twice in 2016 and at least once in 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its thirtieth session (September 2017, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

5. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by ECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. All intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as all railway companies, freight and forwarding industries interested in the event are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

III. Secretariat

7. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Framework for Climate Services, the World Meteorological Organization, the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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Matters relating to the
Inland Transport Committee

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport

Background

1. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC), at its seventy-seventh session (24-26 February 2015), decided that the mandate of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) should be recommended for extension (para.43, Informal document ITC (2015) No. 14).

2. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and its terms of reference.

Draft Decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-sixth meeting on 31 March 2015, approves the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and its original terms of reference as contained in the Annex, until 30 June 2017.

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Annex

Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

1. To develop proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, in particular Article 22bis (which stipulates procedure for the amendment of Appendix 1B), including the creation of a new institutional arrangement such as an administrative committee.

2. To examine, and if necessary develop proposals to modify, the relationship between the AETR and the corresponding EU legislation pertaining to road transport/social rules.

3. To describe and assess issues related to the exchange of information with respect to the issuance of digital tachograph cards. This may include developing proposals to modify the existing information exchange platforms and/or to develop a new standardized method for exchange of AETR-related information.

4. To describe and analyze issues related to:

(a) the memorandum of understanding between the ECE and European Commission Services which recognizes the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR;

(b) the possibility of establishing other certification bodies/authorities.

5. To examine and possibly develop proposals concerning third-country rights and obligations under the AETR Agreement.

6. To assess the need and feasibility of providing assistance to AETR Contracting Parties concerning the implementation of the amendments to the AETR made on the basis of Article 22 bis concerning Commission Regulations (EU) No. 1266/2009 and 68/2009.

7. The Group of Experts on AETR is expected to complete its work by the end of June 2017.

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Matters relating to the
Inland Transport Committee

Decision approving the establishment of the Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Background

1. At its seventy-seventh session (Geneva, 24–26 February 2015), the Inland Transport Committee recommended the establishment of a Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure.

2. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of the Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure and its terms of reference for a period of two years.

Draft Decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-sixth meeting on 31 March 2015, approves the establishment of the Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure according to the terms of reference contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure

I. Background

1. The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure delivered its preliminary results, i.e. the eTIR Reference Model, including the key concepts contained in Chapter 2 thereof adopted by the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/234, para. 22) and endorsed by the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention, 1975 (AC.2) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/91, para. 19). Those concepts can now be taken into account in the preparation of the legal framework for the computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR).

2. WP.30, after discussing possible ways forward, agreed that the establishment of a formal group of legal experts that would methodically and expediently design the substantive legal framework of eTIR would be warranted. This proposal led to the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to recommend the establishment of a Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure.

II. Objectives

3. The Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure is established, in line with the policies of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and subject to the general supervision of the WP.30 and the Inland Transport Committee, to provide a specialized and dedicated international platform with the objective of developing the eTIR legal framework.

4. The Group of Experts will, in the process of developing the legal framework for the computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR), prepare a draft Protocol to the TIR Convention.

III. Areas of work

5. The Group of Experts shall prepare the draft Protocol by carrying out the following activities:

(a) Undertake a study of the TIR Convention with a view to concretely identifying and analysing the provisions which may be affected by the introduction of eTIR;

(b) Carefully examine the issues pertaining to the administration of the eTIR international system, including, but not limited to, international data protection requirements and confidentiality requirements, as well as legal aspects of financing and draft the relevant legal provisions accordingly;

(c) Provide legal provisions on the role and functions of the TIR intergovernmental bodies under the eTIR legal framework;

(d) Identify and analyze the most efficient and legally acceptable method for incorporating the functional and technical specifications as contained in the eTIR Reference Model into the legal framework, as well as design an expedient amendment procedure.

6. The Group of Experts shall base its considerations on:

(a) The principles of eTIR as agreed upon by WP.30 and AC.2;

(b) The functional and technical specifications of eTIR as contained in the eTIR Reference Model;

(c) The guidance of WP.30.

IV. Membership

7. The Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure shall, in accordance with the guidelines on the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within ECE, outlined in document ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, be composed of experts in the relevant fields, appointed by member Governments, as well as competent representatives of relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations and academia.

V. Modalities of operation

8. The Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure will report to the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30). It will carry out its work on the basis of an annual work plan.

9. In the process of its deliberations and work, the Group of Experts may:

- request and collect from competent national authorities all the relevant information to assist the Group of Experts in describing and assessing the situation;
- conduct surveys of prevailing national legislation and/or legal arrangements that may be of relevance to its work;
- develop and maintain a network of contacts, including key stakeholders such as governments, customs authorities, academia and the transport industry, with a view to exchanging information that may be of use for its work.

10. The Group of Experts will meet at least once or a maximum of twice a year, at dates that will enable the reporting of progress and results to the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport.

11. The secretariat will:

(a) Provide secretariat support to the Group of Experts;

(b) Organize and participate in its meetings; and

(c) Assist in preparing the annual work plan.

12. The Group of Experts will be established without the need for additional resources. Support work will be provided within the existing capacity of the ECE secretariat as well as, potentially, with additional financial and in-kind voluntary contributions from the participating countries and other international organizations, bodies and stakeholders. UNOG resources will be used for translation and conference services.

13. The Group of Experts may, in the course of its work, identify additional elements or areas in the design of the eTIR legal framework that merit attention, and in such case, these additional elements shall be brought to the attention of WP.30.

14. The Group of Experts is expected to start its work in May 2015, following the approval by the Inland Transport Committee and the ECE Executive Committee. It is expected that the Group of Experts would complete its work by the end of May 2017.